

D.C. SILENCE GIVEN 3 YEARS FOR CRIME

Private Ward Sentenced for
Slaying Andrew J. Cooper
While on Sentry Duty.

TRAGEDY AT CAMP MEIGS

Private Jerry Ward, Company A, 1st Separate Battalion, District National Guard, who shot and killed Andrew J. Cooper, an elderly carpenter, at Camp Meigs, the quartermaster training camp, 24th street and Florida avenue northeast, on the morning of October 12, will be confined at hard labor for three years in the United States penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

The military court-martial which tried the soldier based its sentence on the theory that he was guilty of involuntary manslaughter, the penalty for which offense in time of peace is fixed by the articles of war at three years imprisonment at hard labor.

Prig. Gen. Eli D. Hoyle, commanding the Eastern Department, the reviewing authority, however, held that the sentence was "wholly inadequate" for the offense committed, regardless of whether it was voluntary or involuntary manslaughter, and approved only in order that the accused should not "escape well deserved punishment."

Trial Held Here.

The trial was held at Washington barracks. The court was composed almost entirely of officers of the Engineer Corps. Capt. William H. Holcombe was president of the court and Capt. H. L. Robb, the judge advocate, and Second Lieut. George F. Young, the assistant judge advocate. Second Lieut. Ernest C. Dedicks was counsel for the accused.

The charge on which Ward was tried was "violation of the 10th article of war," and the specification above he did "willfully, feloniously and unlawfully kill one Andrew J. Cooper, by shooting him in the body with a service rifle." The accused pleaded "Not guilty" to the charge and its specification. Several days were occupied in taking testimony and hearing the arguments of the judge advocate and the counsel for the defense.

The witnesses examined were Capt. C. H. Davis, First Lieut. Benjamin D. Sarge, Eugene Davis and Corporal Raymond Minor. Ernest Graves and Charles E. Hughes of the 1st Separate Battalion and the following named witnesses: Marvin D. Phillips, John W. Dunning and Dr. Charles Plischman.

It was shown that at the time the charge was made, Ward was on duty in the quartermaster's office, a heavy guard had been placed nearby, and the entrance to the office was reserved except through the main entrance; that the entrance was at the time of the shooting closed by a guard post and that the entrance was guarded by a sentry.

Victim an Old Man.

It was testified that Cooper was an old man with defective hearing and that he was merely trying to make a short cut to his place of work, and also that he was unarmed.

The accused testified that after he had shoved Cooper down the embankment, he saw the old man get up and "I got you," and came back with his hand behind him "as if to draw a weapon, and then he shot me." Ward said he was not the one who shot.

The court found Ward "guilty" of the charge and of the specification "guilty of the charge and of the specification," and substituted therefor the words "in the execution of his duty as a sentry failed to use other available means to prevent the commission of a crime."

The sentence imposed was that the accused "be dishonorably discharged from the service, with all allowances due or to become due while in confinement under this sentence, and to be confined at hard labor at such place as the reviewing authority may direct for three years."

Declares Sentence Inadequate.

Gen. Hoyle in his review of the case said: "The court, having been directed to review because its sentence was regarded as inadequate, the sentence was one of voluntary rather than involuntary manslaughter. It met informally and returned a sentence of three years imprisonment, which in effect requested further information as to why its findings and sentence should be sustained. It is noted that the record had not been received."

"The president of the court should have been more explicit in his findings and sentence for the reasons that he had no information on which to base his opinion, that the sentence was inadequate, and that the sentence was inadequate, and that the sentence was inadequate."

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American Fighters Visit Naples.

ROME, December 25.—Several hundred American naval officers and men are on a visit to Naples on Christmas leave. They have attracted great attention from the Italians, crowds of whom follow them about the streets. More than a hundred Americans attended a reception given in their honor by Ambassador Thomas Nelson Page.

French Officials' Terms Extended.

PARIS, Monday, December 24.—The chamber of deputies today adopted a resolution extending the terms of all legislative officials in France until the end of the war. No elections will be held in the meantime.

A. LANTERN LOSES \$9 WORTH OF COAL

While A. Lantern was out last night somebody walked off with \$9 worth of his coal. The thief took the coal from in front of Mr. Lantern's residence, 573 2d street northeast, according to the report made to the police today.

The police say that when A. Lantern announced he was "trimmed" for his coal pile it was the first theft of the kind reported to the attention of the department since coal took rank with diamonds and other precious articles. No light has been shed on the identity of the robber as yet.

NAVY YARD EXPERTS TO ADVISE CONGRESS

Will Recommend New Sites or
Abolition of Present Construction Plants.

INTEREST AWAITS REPORT

Expert advice as to the advisability of establishing new navy yards and the desirability of abolishing any existing navy yard is to be given, soon after Congress reconvenes, to the naval affairs committee of the House, which, through a subcommittee, is inquiring into the way in which the Navy has been conducting its share in the war.

Representative Samuel P. Pettigrew, Tennessee, chairman of the naval affairs committee, said today that he expects soon to receive the report of the commission on navy yards and naval stations, instructed by Congress to make a thorough investigation of navy yards and locations recommended for new yards. This commission was appointed before the United States entered the world war. In view of the larger work for the Navy, and on account of the present inquiry into naval management, the committee is interested in what the commission will propose to Congress.

Scattered by War Duties.

The commission on navy yards and naval stations has been scattered by war duties. The committee on the part of the House, which was organized in 1914, has been scattered by war duties. The committee on the part of the House, which was organized in 1914, has been scattered by war duties.

Compiling Report to Congress.

The commission is now busy compiling its report to Congress. It is expected that the report will be completed by about two weeks.

This report will include data about a number of locations proposed as sites for new yards, which have been considered during a tour of inspection by a board consisting of Admiral Helm, Capt. Chambers, as civil engineer, and Lieut. P. N. L. Bellinger, aviation expert.

Representative Pettigrew said that already four parts of the commission's report have been made and printed, and that the fifth part, now being prepared, will take up in part the conditions that it found along the East coast. It is understood that it will also include data regarding possible sites on the Gulf of Mexico.

Two Children Dead FROM GAS POISONING

Wards of Board of Guardians Succumb in Home of Nurse Who Was Caring for Them.

Esther Reed Wheeler, thirteen years old, and Mary Scott, eleven years old, were found dead this morning from gas poisoning at 643 South Carolina avenue southeast, the home of Lucy Payne, a colored nurse in the employ of the board of children's guardians. The children were the wards of the board. Mary Scott had been under the nurse's care since she was a baby and Esther had been under her care for the last nine months.

This morning the nurse permitted the children to sleep later than usual because they were up late last night participating in a Christmas party. When neither child had appeared on the lower floor at 8:30 o'clock the nurse and a sister went to their room and found them dead. A partly open gas fixture indicated from where the gas had escaped. Detective Barnes and Precinct Detective Waters made an investigation after a physician from Casualty Hospital had pronounced the children dead.

Dr. William B. Carr, acting coroner, after examining the nurse and others, was satisfied that one of the children had accidentally left the gas turned on or a dim light left in the room had blown out during the night and caused the gas to escape.

DOOM IN POLITICS ON 1918 PROGRAM

Senate and House Close, War Issues Up, 1920 in Distance.

BOTH PARTIES ON ALERT

After the first of the year there will be a boom in political activities of both the great parties. The campaign for the Senate and House of Representatives, which will culminate in November of next year, is classed as national in aspect and as of more than ordinary country-wide importance.

The enhanced significance of the approaching campaign is attributable to several considerations. It lays the groundwork for the presidential elections of 1920. The fact that the two parties are so closely divided in the House and with a margin in the Senate that is susceptible of being reversed next year or increased, as the case may be, gives tremendous impetus to efforts to carry the elections in the fall.

Doubt and Sporting Zest Present.

Moreover, the lack of radical demarcation between the policies and principles of the two parties lends an element of doubt to the outcome as well as a sporting zest in the game. With the war coming to its close, old-time party feuds will be taboo. The party that talks tariff will be as one crying the wilderness. Prohibition cannot be claimed by either party, not even the prohibition party, as a personal asset. The newly revised tariff taken by the House and the margin in the Senate on the constitutional amendment set forth that "Government ownership may be by election day be practically in actual operation on the railroads." "Stand by the President" may fall flat, as both parties in Congress and the country are now standing side by side with him.

Business Interests in Politics.

And yet in this twilight zone of partisan indistinctness will be fought one of the most intensive campaigns witnessed in many years. It is already quite evident that business and industrial interests of the country will be taking part in the campaign. That they have exerted since Mark Hanna rallied them to the support of the "wholesome" program is a fact. It is not yet known what the two old parties will capitalize in the campaign. It may be that the party will get it in gross, but that is a matter of opinion.

Class Legislation in Congress.

The present Congress has given the violent of the country and the people, not to say virulent, class legislation, which will begin to make itself felt in the campaign. The men and their works will be evidence at one and the same time. There are republicans, progressives and hitherto regulars as well as speeches in print.

One of the first activities of the new Congress will be the passage of a bill to conduct campaigns of the House of Representatives. In the past two campaigns, however, the organization has not maintained the tradition of former committees and the result, it is claimed, is shown in the reduced republican representation. Facially and in fact, the organization is generally assumed to have contributed to the situation.

May Not Seek Re-Election.

The belief widely prevails that Chairman Woods and Secretary Everman will not seek re-election. Nathan B. Scott, a Washington Golf and Country Club member, concludes not to run for chairman, or if it is decided to oppose his re-election, he will not run for chairman, or if it is decided to oppose his re-election, he will not run for chairman.

G. O. P. Committee May Reorganize.

The republican national committee, set forth in The Star yesterday, may also reorganize in February by the election of a new chairman. The democratic congressional committee will also choose a new membership during the early months of the new year.

Democrats Want Senate.

The democrats are more intent upon carrying the Senate than anything else. They realize that the House is a handicap, due to the handicap of the party in power for responsibility over war crimes. But they think this will be not so much the case as it was in the last election. There are five states where the democrats hope to make gains with new candidates and they expect to capitalize on the mistakes of the military branches, not attributable to the administration or party.

Franco-American Fraternity Meets.

PARIS, Monday, December 24.—Marshall Joffre presided today at a manifestation in the Sorbonne organized by the "Franco-American Fraternity," which thus far has given aid to 47,000 French war orphans. American Ambassador Sharp, and his wife, and Mrs. Joffre, Mmes Schofield and Fell, members of the organization, made addresses. Other speakers included Louis Barthelemy and Eugene Brieux.



URGES FUEL SAVING AGAINST COLD SNAP

John L. Weaver Points to Liberal Receipts Yesterday as Chance to Economize.

John L. Weaver, federal fuel administrator for the District, said today that yesterday's receipts of coal in Washington were considerably more liberal than the average of recent days, and have resulted, in conjunction with the mild weather, in marked improvement in the situation. Mr. Weaver is anxious to improve upon the results that the improvement in supply should not result in relaxation in the strictest kind of economy.

Now that the Christmas shopping period is over Mr. Weaver intends to insist upon a more strict observance of the fuel conservation regulations. Many merchants, he said, have had their stores brilliantly lighted inside during closing hours. This will have to stop.

Three Grandchildren AT WHITE HOUSE TREE

Strictly Family Christmas Observed, President and Wife Remain Indoors Today.

A strictly family Christmas is being observed at the White House today. Because of the inclement weather, President and Mrs. Wilson did not attend church services this morning, and for the same reason plans for an afternoon on the golf links were abandoned.

The president's daughter, Mrs. Francis B. Sayer, and her two children are guests at the White House. This afternoon the president's other grandchildren, little Miss Eleanor McAdoo, daughter of Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo, joined the party around the big Christmas tree.

Alleged German Spy Caught

Franz Schulenberg Held at San Francisco as an Arch Plotter.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 25.—Federal officials announce the arrest on a presidential warrant of Franz Schulenberg, alleged to be one of the cleverest and most dangerous German spies operating on the Pacific Coast.

TO OUTLINE MILITARY POLICY.

Secretary Baker Is Expected to Make Definite Announcement.

A definite military policy may be outlined by Secretary Baker of the War Department before either the Senate or House military affairs committee, it was said today. The feeling is growing that there ought to be a definite statement of the War Department's policy, including an estimate of the number of men who will be called into the service.

More Details Received in Regard to Explosion in Krupp Works.

AMSTERDAM, December 25.—A frontier correspondent of the Handelsblad says that the explosion which occurred recently at the Krupp works had its origin in a building where a thousand persons were employed. The engine room and turning shop suffered most, and only the wooden portion of the building was destroyed. According to this correspondent there was no loss of life.

GREENWOOD, S. C., December 25.—

Mrs. J. L. Whitman and her six children, ranging in age from three to thirteen years, were burned to death in their home near here last night. The cause of the fire is not known.

ITALIANS DRIVE BACK AT ENEMY

Strive to Null Austro-German Gain West of the Brenta River.

VICTORY ON LOWER PIAVE

By the Associated Press.

ROMA, December 24.—Having devoted all his attention last week to trying to get down the San Lorenzo valley, leading to the plain, the enemy has suddenly turned his attention to the last twenty-four hours to the Francelva valley, which gives another line of approach to the lower level. These valleys lie on opposite sides of the Brenta river, with German divisions operating east of the river in an effort to push through the Valley of San Lorenzo, and the Austrians fighting west of the river, in an attempt to effect a penetration over the Francelva valley route.

Gain Few Hundred Yards.

The latest attack on the west side of the river was preceded by a heavy bombardment. This preparation was followed up by the advance of successive waves of infantry from a large concentration of enemy forces, which now been ended by a brilliant night attack.

The Italians, however, are still contesting the ground on the west bank, near the mouth of the river, and the enemy has been identified during the night attack. It is also established that Austrian troops along the Piave are being shifted to the mountain region with the evident purpose of concentrating all attention on breaking through from the north.

Menace to Venice Ended.

The menace to Venice from the recent success of the enemy in one of his numerous attempts to cross the old Piave has been ended by a brilliant night attack.

The 17th Bersaglieri drove the enemy from his foothold on the west bank, near the mouth of the river, and forced him back across the stream to his old position on the east bank.

PATRIOTISM IS JOINED WITH CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Boston Extends Holiday Greetings to Nation's Fighters While Observing Traditional Yuletide.

BOSTON, December 25.—Patriotism joined hands with the Christmas spirit today. In the thousands of homes in this city and its suburbs, where last night the Red Cross service flags in the windows were brilliantly illuminated, the first thought this morning was for the children, but following close behind it came the remembrance of the men in the service of their country.

1,000 PERSONS ENDANGERED.

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BRITISH LOSSES REDUCED.

13,919 Men Figure in Casualties During December 19-24 Period.

LONDON, December 25.—The British casualties reported for the period December 19-24, inclusive, number 13,919, as killed or died of wounds—Officers, 205; men, 13,714. Wounded or missing—Officers, 837; men, 10,160.

MOTHER AND CHILDREN DIE IN BURNING HOME

GREENWOOD, S. C., December 25.—Mrs. J. L. Whitman and her six children, ranging in age from three to thirteen years, were burned to death in their home near here last night. The cause of the fire is not known.

U. S. FIGHTING MEN IN EUROPE REVEL IN CHRISTMAS JOYS

Gen. Pershing's Army Capitulates to Santa Claus, Who Takes Over Camps. Real American Christmas for Those With Flotilla in British Waters.

HEARTS ARE MADE GLAD BY GIFT DISTRIBUTION AT NAVAL CLUBHOUSE

Children of French Residents Are Turkey, Mince Pie and Trimmings Served at the Sailors' Dinner.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Monday, December 24.—The American expeditionary force tonight capitulated to Santa Claus. With a light snow falling throughout the zone, every man in Gen. Pershing's army—"dough-boys," cavalrymen, artillerymen, marine engineers, "mule-skinner"—stopped work as the sun went down and started in to do the bidding of the jovial saint temporarily in command.

First there was a rush to open the Christmas packages from home, for during the day mail trucks after mail trucks had arrived in the various towns where the troops are quartered, loaded to the top with presents. The mail arrived at the base port late, and extraordinary efforts were made to get it to the soldiers promptly. So joyously American fighters who had about come to the conclusion that their friends at home had forgotten them, were now groggy with their new sweaters on, new pipes in their teeth, some of them smoking fragrant cigars, the men of the Army then went to work in earnest making it merry for the children of France.

Under Fire Christmas Eve.

At some distance from the American zone the railway engineers at the British front and other engineers at the French front were spending their Christmas eve under fire, but even there the children of nearby neighborhoods were being cared for. It was in the headquarters town of the first division that the Christmas spirit was most elaborately entertained was held, however. Because the church there was partly shell, the M. C. G. was commanded. During the afternoon the American officers and men worked hard erecting a gigantic Christmas tree and decorating it with tinsel and lights. The children of the French zone were posted outside kept inquisitive youngsters at a safe distance. Finally the doors were opened and the French front was flooded with a boy and girl dressed in his or her best and accompanied by the mother, or in the case of the little refugees, whose mothers and fathers were absent, by the woman who is caring for them.

Bill of Fare on All Ships.

This is the bill of fare provided on all ships: Cream celery soup, sweet pickles, celery and chow chow, Rhode Island turkey, spiced ham, giblet gravy, French dressing, asparagus, sugar corn, cream potatoes, coconut lard cake, mince pie, fresh apples, black coffee, and cigars.

Many homes near the base were thronged with soldiers and sailors. The British admiral commanding the station was host to Admiral Sims and his wife. The British admiral's wife was also a guest.

Hospitality Minus Turkey.

LONDON, December 25.—American officers, soldiers and sailors generally will go without turkey today because of war conditions. Otherwise they will enjoy open English hospitality and make to feel at home as much as possible.

At the Y. M. C. A. eagle hut continuous cheer and song were heard throughout the holidays. A Christmas tree with presents for all the guests and two special tables of food were provided. Most of the Americans in London are officers attached to special missions. There are also aviators, sailors and Marines. Many of the Americans are working in Scotland. Many English homes will be thrown open to the Americans. The British admiral commanding the station was host to Admiral Sims and his wife. The British admiral's wife was also a guest.

MYSTERY IN MURDER.

Former Circus Clown Dragged From Auto and Shot.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., December 25.—Eddie Eckert, aged twenty-five, formerly a clown with the Barnum & Bailey circus, was shot and killed early today by an unidentified man, who escaped. Before the body was taken to the morgue, it was stopped on a corner in the outlying section of the city, the driver dragged Eckert from the rear seat to the pavement, steadied him with some difficulty and shot him through the forehead with a revolver. The slayer then re-entered the car and drove away. Before the body was taken to the morgue, it was stopped on a corner in the outlying section of the city, the driver dragged Eckert from the rear seat to the pavement, steadied him with some difficulty and shot him through the forehead with a revolver. The slayer then re-entered the car and drove away.

ATTACK CALLED PRO-GERMAN.

Anti-Vivisectionists Object to Aiding Research Work in France.

BOSTON, December 25.—A statement characterizing as pro-German propaganda an attack made upon the American Red Cross "by so-called anti-vivisectionists" because the organization has given \$100,000 to the medical staff of the United States Army in France for research work, was made public today by James Jackson, manager of the New England division of the Red Cross.

OPENS FRENCH HOSPITAL.

American Red Cross Starts Trudeau Sanatorium for Tuberculosis.

PARIS, December 25.—The Edward I. Trudeau Tuberculosis Sanatorium, named in honor of the famous American specialist of French descent, was opened today. The first patients were refugee women and children. There are only eight beds now, but it is hoped to increase the number to twelve hundred within the next few months. The sanatorium is situated in the French Alps, and the American Red Cross nurses comprise the staff.

GALE TIME AT CAMP DEVENS.

Wagonloads of Christmas Gifts and Trees for Soldiers.

AYER, Mass., December 25.—Christmas day was celebrated in memorable fashion at Camp Devens. Chorus of soldiers of the National Army sang carols in all parts of the camp last night and gaily decorated quarters were crowded with soldiers and their families. Many of the soldiers were out about Christmas trees, many of them out in the neighboring woods.

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A very considerable decrease in the British casualties is shown in the latest figures. The casualties for the week ended December 18 were 13,919, for the week ended December 19, 12,856, and for the week ended December 24, 28,622.